

"don't eat fortune
cookies"



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

The audience for Michael Lewis's speech is the Princeton University graduating class of 2012. The tone of Lewis's speech can best be described as engaging. At the beginning of his speech, Lewis states that when he graduated from college, he did not feel prepared for the job market. Lewis first realized he wanted to be a writer when he wrote his senior thesis in college. Lewis says he was hired for a prestigious position with a Wall Street investment firm because an executive's wife convinced her husband to hire him. Lewis quit his high-paying Wall Street job to write a book about Wall Street. For his book *Moneyball*, Lewis studied how baseball teams hired players. An important lesson he learned from this research is that team managers often misjudge a player's value because they fail to consider the role of luck in the player's success. Lewis uses the word *arbitrarily* when he describes how he was assigned his Wall Street position and also when he describes how a leader was chosen in the cookie experiment. In this context, *arbitrarily* means in a manner determined by chance or whim. According to Lewis, the cookie experiment shows that when people are "blind to their own luck," they believe they deserve extra rewards. Which of the following statements best expresses what Lewis wants his audience to "never forget"? They have all been lucky, so they should not feel entitled. At the beginning of the speech, Lewis says he will explain how he "wound up rich and famous" because he wants his audience "to understand just how mysterious careers can be." What would Lewis consider to be the mysterious aspect of his career? Cite examples from the speech. Lewis would consider luck to be the mysterious aspect of his career. He was lucky in being able to go to Princeton, in getting his Wall Street job, in having the support of his parents, and in following his interests to become a successful writer. Why does Lewis

tell his audience that all of them “ have been faced with the extra cookie”?
What does he want them to do when they are faced with more extra cookies?
Lewis means that the graduates have all been lucky and successful. Because they are Princeton graduates, they will be perceived as leaders. He wants them to remember that luck has played a role in their success and they should not allow themselves to be carried away by a sense of entitlement. They should remember their obligation to act “ in the nation’s service, in the service of all nations.”